

Exhibit 27

CAMPAIGN

Lincoln Project highlighting Flynn's coup comments in new ad

BY CELINE CASTRONUOVO - 06/09/21 11:16 PM ET

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The anti-Trump group The Lincoln Project on Wednesday launched an ad seizing on former national security adviser Michael Flynn's apparent suggestion that a Myanmar-like coup take place in the U.S., arguing that the Republican Party has "crossed a line."

The one-minute ad, set to run digitally in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday and in the Bedminster, N.J., and New York City media markets Thursday, includes audio from a Dallas conference in which an audience member asked Flynn, "I want to know why what happened in Myanmar can't happen here?"

Flynn responded, "No reason. I mean, it should happen here."

The comparison to the military-led coup in Myanmar, which has been followed by a months-long brutal security force crackdown resulting in the deaths of hundreds of people, led to bipartisan outrage against the former Trump administration official.

The Lincoln Project ad following the remarks from Flynn includes footage from the Jan. 6 Capitol riot, with a narrator saying, "America has crossed a line."

"The Republican Party believes in ending the American experiment, led by a man obsessed with power and money who will say and do anything to seize control again," the ad continues, along with footage of former President Trump, before playing a clip of the ex-commander-in-chief at the February Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) repeating his unsupported claim that the 2020 presidential election "was rigged."

The ad's narrator says that Trump is willing "to punish those who oppose him," as the ad shows footage of law enforcement officials clearing out racial justice protesters outside of the White House last year before Trump crossed Lafayette Square and posed for a photo-op outside of St. John's Episcopal Church.

"His followers don't just disagree with us, they've got something worse in mind," the narrator says. "We know what national populism and authoritarianism lead to every time," the ad continues, along with footage of Trump supporters storming the Capitol earlier this year as lawmakers met to certify President Biden's 2020 election win.

"That's why we will never compromise with this evil. We will never step back from the line, because we believe in America," the ad says, before asking the audience, "Are you in this fight, or have they already won?"

In a Wednesday press release unveiling the ad, former Republican Party member and Lincoln Project co-founder Rick Wilson said in a statement that the GOP has "embraced a style of politics that favors power over people; fear over freedom; destruction over democracy."

"The GOP believes in sacrificing our democratic systems at the altar of national populism and authoritarianism," Wilson added. "This newest indication that a line has been crossed is but another reason The Lincoln Project remains committed to the fight ahead and committed to seeing an end to Trumpism."

"Any reporting of any other belief by me is a boldface fabrication based on twisted reporting at a lively panel at a conference of Patriotic Americans who love this country, just as I do," he added at the time.

TAGS BEDMINSTER CAPITOL RIOT DONALD TRUMP JAN. 6 RIOT JOE BIDEN
MICHAEL FLYNN MYANMAR MYANMAR COUP NEW JERSEY NEW YORK NEW YORK
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Exhibit 28

Michael Flynn posts video featuring QAnon slogans

By Marshall Cohen, CNN

Updated 8:37 PM EDT, Tue July 7, 2020



Michael Flynn posts video featuring QAnon slogan

01:19 - Source: [CNN](#)

Washington (CNN) — In a video posted online over the weekend, President Donald Trump's first national security adviser, Michael Flynn, is seen using phrases and slogans that are hallmarks of the baseless QAnon conspiracy movement. He also tagged his post with a QAnon hashtag.

Followers of QAnon believe there is a "deep state" within the US government that is controlled by a cabal of Satan-worshipping pedophiles. According to the conspiracy, the cabal is largely run by Democratic politicians and liberal celebrities – and Trump is trying to take them down.

Flynn posted the 53-second clip to Twitter on Saturday, which was the July Fourth holiday. In the video, Flynn leads a small group in reciting a generic oath of office, the same oath taken by members of Congress. After finishing the oath, Flynn says, "Where we go one, we go all!" His post included the hashtag #TakeTheOath, which he recently added to his Twitter bio as well.

These elements of Flynn's post – the oath, paired with the catchphrase and hashtag – are distinctive to the QAnon movement and are used widely by its followers, experts say. Flynn never explicitly mentions QAnon in the video, and his lawyer claims his phrasing is innocuous.

"This is absolutely pro-QAnon," said Mike Rothschild, who recently published a book examining and debunking some of the most prominent conspiracy theories. "It's the same version of the enlistment oath that Q followers have been filming themselves taking for the last week. And the phrase at the end, 'Where we go one, we go all,' is a key catchphrase in the Q mythology."

There are more than 10,500 replies to Flynn's tweet, many from self-identified QAnon supporters who thanked Flynn for his comments, used the same hashtag or posted clips of their own oaths. Flynn's video had been viewed 1.8 million times as of Tuesday, according to Twitter data.

Flynn – the former head of the Defense Intelligence Agency and a retired Army lieutenant general – is now the most prominent former US official to publicly stoke QAnon conspiracies, even though the movement is based on lies and has been linked to several violent incidents.

There is also a small but growing contingent of Republican political candidates who have been linked to the conspiracy group, and are on the ballot this November. The GOP nominee for US Senate in Oregon openly touts QAnon and posted her own oath-taking video last month. She is a long shot to win, but other QAnon-friendly House candidates are likely headed to Congress.

The Flynn video comes while he is still fighting to wrap up his criminal case. Flynn cemented his position this year as an exonerated hero in the eyes of Trump, senior Republican officials and many right-wing media outlets, after the Justice Department dropped the case against him. These figures have repeatedly praised Flynn's integrity and Trump says he is mulling a pardon.

In the parallel QAnon universe, Flynn is considered a key player and is viewed as a martyr.

"The Q community is really excited by all of this. Flynn is a hugely important figure to them, seen as a warrior who infiltrated the deep state by pretending to plead guilty," Rothschild said. "The video of Flynn actually taking the oath is, to them, total validation that they were right, that Flynn is a warrior who fights for them, and that they can be digital soldiers on his level."

Flynn's lawyer pushes back

Flynn's tenure at the White House lasted just a few weeks – he resigned after getting caught in a public lie about his Russian contacts. He pleaded guilty in late 2017 to lying to the FBI about those contacts, but later disavowed his plea and tried to get the case thrown out. In a shocking twist this spring, the Justice Department abandoned the case, which is still tied up in legal limbo.

Regarding the video, Flynn lawyer Sidney Powell told the Washington Examiner that Flynn "wanted to encourage people to think about being a citizen," and claimed the phrase "Where we go one, we go all" was first engraved on a bell on one of President John F. Kennedy's sailboats.

Experts told CNN that QAnon believers often misattribute the quote to Kennedy's boat because "Q" – a supposed government insider who posts online clues about the "deep state" – once said it came from Kennedy. It appears to originate from the 1996 survival film "White Squall."

Asked by CNN on Monday about the quote and about Flynn's video, Powell said in an email: "General Flynn and I both encourage love of this great country and patriotism. Neither of us know Q but appreciate the support we have received from all in our fight for the Truth and Justice ... implying anything wrong with words long ago inscribed on a bell to encourage the unity of the human race is malevolent and just plain wrong. There is nothing more to the story."

Digital soldiers

Experts told CNN that the oath is part of an effort to organize "digital soldiers" for an apocalyptic reckoning, when thousands of "deep state" pedophiles will be arrested and sent to military tribunals at Guantanamo Bay. (Flynn himself coined the term "digital soldiers" in 2016 to refer to Trump's fervent following on social media, one year before QAnon supporters appropriated it.)

"He is clearly endorsing QAnon in the video. Whether he believes the conspiracy theory is another matter," said Joseph Uscinski, a leading expert on conspiracy theories who teaches at the University of Miami. "The 'Where we go one, we go all' chant makes it clear. It is a QAnon saying. Further, the QAnon folks have all been taking this 'pledge' lately online and posting it."

Despite Powell's comments, this isn't the first time Flynn's team has flirted with conspiracies.

Many of Powell's court arguments leaned heavily on discredited allegations of a "deep state" of Democratic partisans within the FBI and Justice Department who were trying to illegally sabotage Flynn. Months before the Justice Department's about-face in the case, career prosecutors said in court filings that Powell's claims were "premised on conspiracy theories."

Members of Flynn's family previously posted QAnon hashtags. And Flynn recently published a series of columns that evoked some of the main QAnon themes, without saying it explicitly. It's unclear whether Flynn truly buys into the conspiracy, is strategically tapping into a community of pro-Trump activists who view him as a hero or is somehow ignorant of the slogans he's using.

Exhibit 29

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Michael Flynn

Elon Musk

Twitter

January 6

Elon Musk Blasted for Michael Flynn's Jan. 6 Twitter Reinstatement

Jan 06, 2023 at 6:29 PM EST

By [Aila Slisco](#)

Writer

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7

Elon Musk is taking heat for reinstating far-right favorite [Michael Flynn](#) to [Twitter](#) on the second anniversary of the January 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol.

Flynn, a retired Army general and ex-national security adviser to former President [Donald Trump](#), returned to the platform on Friday. His account had been permanently banned

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Leading up to the Capitol attack, [Flynn](#) was one of the most prominent supporters of false claims that the contest had been "stolen" by Biden. Flynn was also a prominent proponent of the pro-Trump QAnon conspiracy theory, repeating and [praising](#) the related "where we go one we go all" slogan and making references to the debunked theory on Twitter. He thanked Musk for his return to the platform.



Elon Musk, left, is pictured at the Met Gala in New York City on May 2, 2022, while Michael Flynn, right, former national security adviser for ex-President Donald Trump, is shown at an event in Brunswick, Ohio, on April 21, 2022. Musk was criticized after reinstating Flynn's Twitter account on Friday, the second anniversary of the January 6 Capitol attack.

ALEXI ROSENFELD/GC IMAGES; DUSTIN FRANZ/GETTY IMAGES

"I want to personally thank @elonmusk for all he is doing to help protect our basic human rights, especially our freedom of speech," Flynn [tweeted](#) Friday after being reinstated. "And thanks for allowing me back on @Twitter. To all who offered their strong voices of support to bring me back, thank you! God Bless America [U.S. flag emoji]!"

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General Mike Flynn 
@GenFlynn · [Follow](#)

I want to personally thank [@elonmusk](#) for all he is doing to help protect our basic human rights, especially our freedom of speech. And thanks for allowing me back on [@Twitter](#) . To all who offered their strong voices of support to bring me back, thank you!

God Bless America !

4:41 PM · Jan 6, 2023

 88.4K  Reply  Share

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An avalanche of Twitter users lashed out at Musk for the timing of the reinstatement. Since taking over the platform in October, the billionaire has been repeatedly accused of pushing a right-wing bias despite claiming to be a champion for neutrality and "free speech."

"ZERO coincidence that Twitter restored Misha [Russian flag] Flynn's account today, January 6, of all days," [tweeted](#) Dena Grayson, physician and former Democratic candidate for [Congress](#).

!
Not found

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Z

ERO coincidence that Twitter restored Mishar Flynn's account today, January 6, of all days. 

#January6thInsurrection <https://t.co/HBjUgzusDg>

— Dena Grayson, MD, PhD (@DrDenaGrayson) January 6, 2023

"Mike Flynn's Twitter account has been reinstated. Why hasn't this traitor been tried and sent to prison for treason yet, let alone being reactivated on this hell site," political opinion writer and self-described "former Trump supporter" David Weissman [tweeted](#).

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M

ike Flynn's Twitter account has been reinstated. Why hasn't this traitor been tried and sent to prison for treason yet, let alone being reactivated on this hell site.

— David Weissman  (@davidmweissman) January 6, 2023

"It's no coincidence that [Elon Musk](#) reinstated the Twitter account of traitor QAnon psycho General Flynn on 1/6," [tweeted](#) The USA Singers.

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@TheUSASingers · [Follow](#)

It's no coincidence that Elon Musk reinstated the Twitter account of traitor QAnon psycho General Flynn on 1/6.

5:04 PM · Jan 6, 2023



1.5K

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"Michael Flynn was reinstated on Twitter on the 2nd anniversary of January 6th," attorney and activist Alejandra Caraballo [tweeted](#). "This is no accident."

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@Esqueer_ · [Follow](#)

Michael Flynn was reinstated on Twitter on the 2nd anniversary of January 6th. This is no accident.

● **Zachary Cohen** @ZcohenCNN

Flynn personally thanks Elon Musk for reinstating his Twitter account on 2nd anniversary of Jan. 6 attack.

Reminder that Flynn urged Trump to seize voting machines & impose martial law leading up to Jan. 6 as part of push to overturn 2020 election.

4:58 PM · Jan 6, 2023



578

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"Musk's trickle-back of the high profile extremists continues with [Mike Flynn](#)," tweeted University of Toronto disinformation researcher John Scott-Railton. "Of course, Flynn will try to hijack the conversation all over again. You can help prevent that by not Quote Tweeting or Replying."

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@jsrailton · [Follow](#)

Musk's trickle-back of the high profile extremists continues with Mike Flynn.

Of course, Flynn will try to hijack the conversation all over again.

You can help prevent that by not Quote Tweeting or Replying. 1/

5:09 PM · Jan 6, 2023



321

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"Today is January 6 -- 2 yrs ago today, insurrectionists attacked the U.S. Capitol," [tweeted](#) Charles Lister, senior fellow at the Middle East Institute. "To mark the anniversary, @elonmusk appears to have reinstated one of the insurrection's most notorious supporters & all-round conspiracy theorist: Gen. Michael Flynn."

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@Charles_Lister · [Follow](#)

Today is January 6 -- 2yrs ago today, insurrectionists attacked the U.S. Capitol.

To mark the anniversary, [@elonmusk](#) appears to have reinstated one of the insurrection's most notorious supporters & all-round conspiracy theorist:

Gen. Michael Flynn.

3:34 PM · Jan 6, 2023



35

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"What a slap in the face to all those police officers that were injured & traumatized 2 years ago today defending our capitol & our democracy," [@Suezm1](#) [tweeted](#). "Musk is trash & Flynn is a Christofascist traitor to this country."

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@Suezm1 · Follow

What a slap in the face to all those police officers that were injured & traumatized 2 years ago today defending our capitol & our democracy. Musk is trash & Flynn is a Christofascist traitor to this country.

● **Ron Filipkowski**  @RonFilipkowski

Elon Musk reinstates Michael Flynn's twitter account on J6.

5:26 PM · Jan 6, 2023



1



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Some of those criticizing Musk for the reinstatement pointed out that Flynn had advocated for the use of force to overturn Trump's 2020 loss, shortly before Trump supporters attempted to forcefully overturn the loss by storming the Capitol.

Weeks before the Capitol attack, Flynn met with Trump at the White House and urged him to seize election machines and order the military to force new elections in states that he

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"Elon Musk seems to have chosen the second anniversary of the January 6th attack to restore the Twitter account of retired general, election denier, conspiracy pusher, and martial law supporter Michael Flynn," [MSNBC](#) host Mehdi Hasan [tweeted](#). "Classy."

Mehdi Hasan

@mehdirhasan · [Follow](#)

Elon Musk seems to have chosen the second anniversary of the January 6th attack to restore the Twitter account of retired general, election denier, conspiracy pusher, and martial law supporter Michael Flynn.

Classy.

3:30 PM · Jan 6, 2023

2.9K Reply Share

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Flynn's account was reinstated only hours after Trump confidante [Roger Stone](#) tagged Musk in a plea to reinstate the retired general.

"@GenFynn has been locked out of his Twitter page since 2020. Can see- can't post. Please @elonmusk reinstate General Michael Flynn," Stone [tweeted](#) on Friday morning.

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@RogerJStoneJr · [Follow](#)

·@GenFynn has been locked out of his Twitter page since 2020. Can see- can't post. Please @elonmusk reinstate General Michael Flynn

6:54 AM · Jan 6, 2023



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The reinstatement also came one day after Flynn appeared on the right-wing *Man in America* podcast and mentioned that he would like to return to the platform to respond to critics.

During the appearance, Flynn [denounced](#) former federal prosecutor and popular Twitter user Ron Filipkowski, who has frequently criticized both him and Musk.

Newsweek has reached out to Twitter and Musk for comment.

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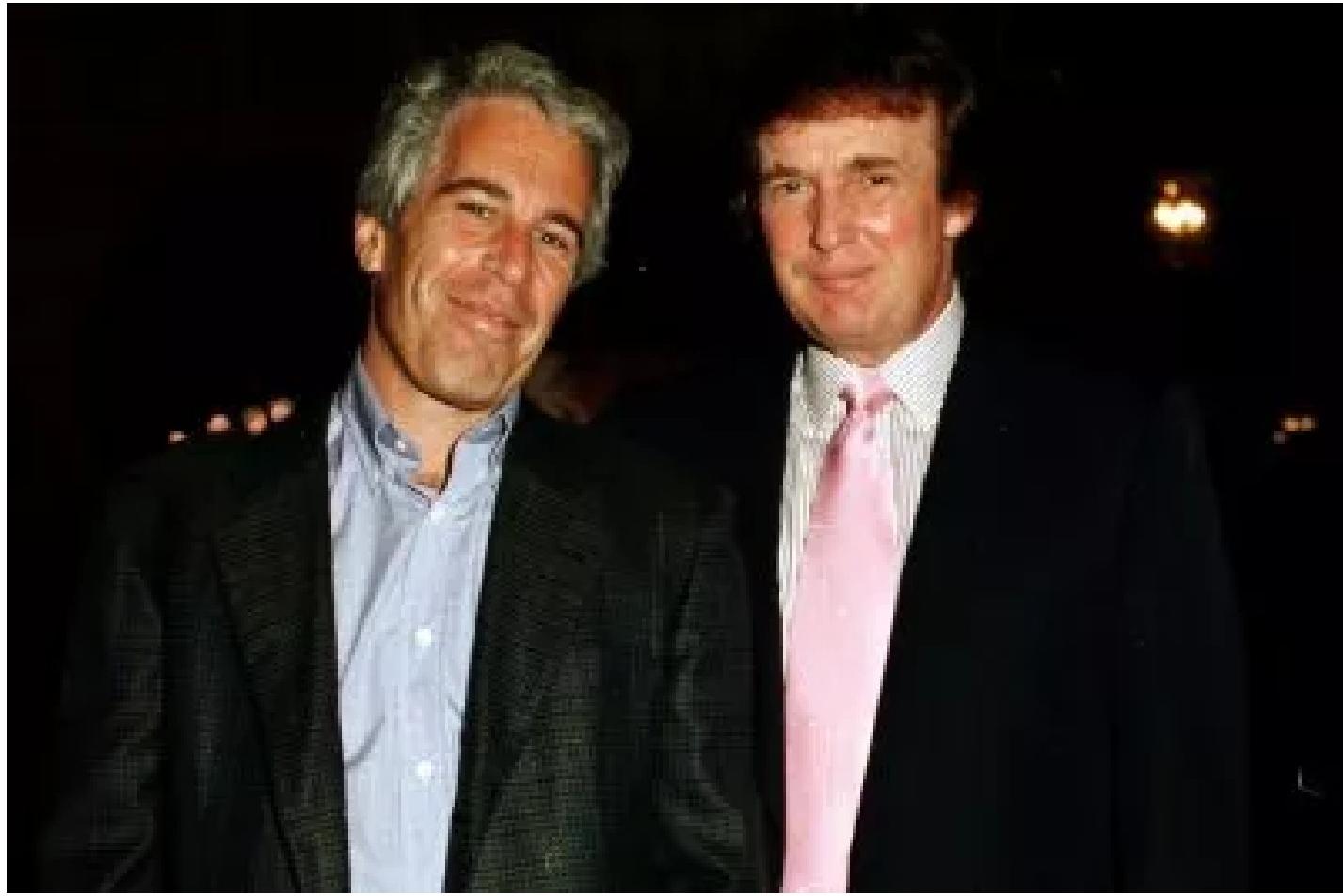
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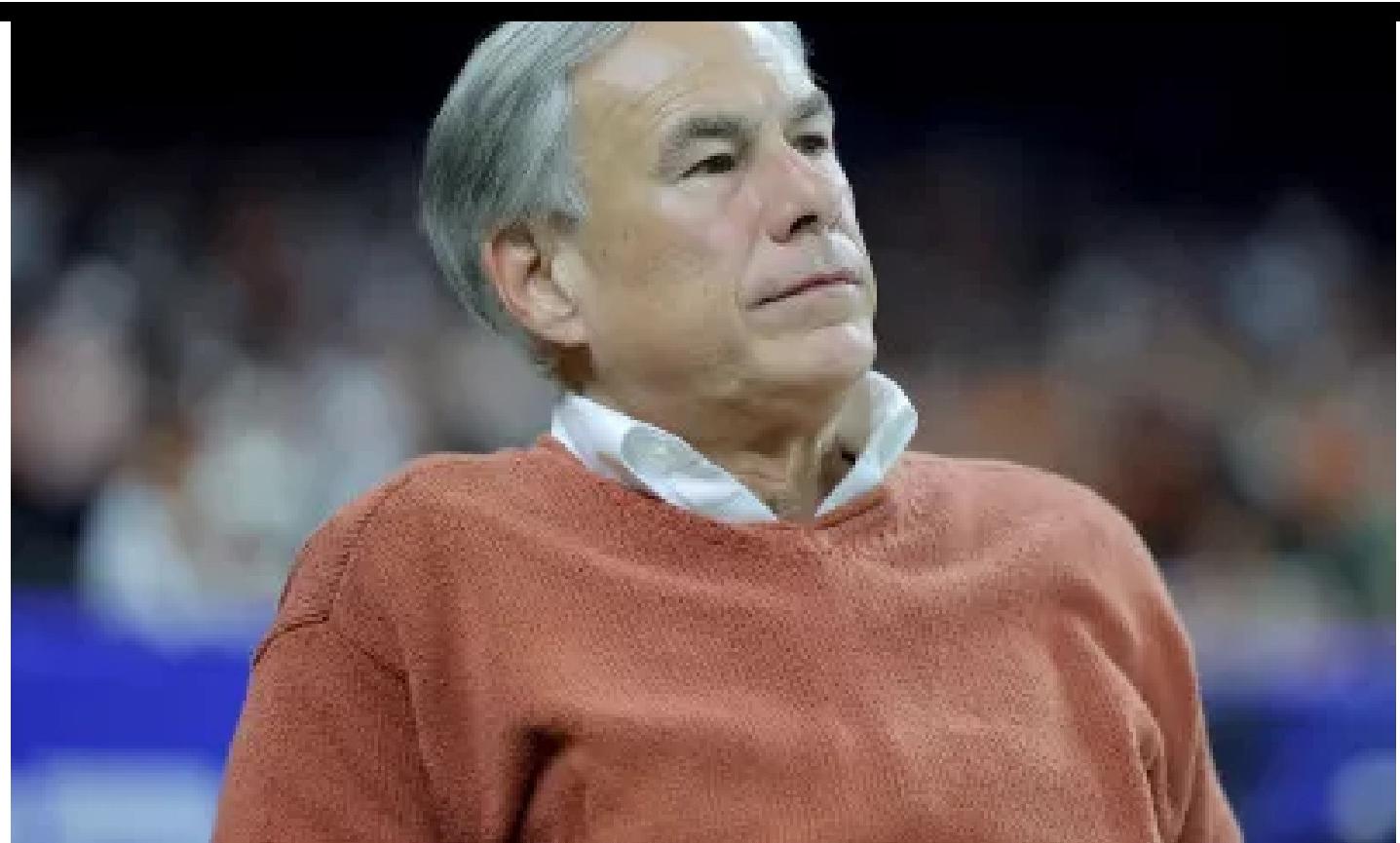
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